



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/880,151

06/13/2001

Joseph M. Cannon

Cannon 122-110-69

7432

74402

7590

03/09/2009

IP Legal Services

1500 East Lancaster Avenue, Suite 200

P.O. Box 1027

Paoli, PA 19301

EXAMINER

DANIEL JR, WILLIE J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/09/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on 26 November 2008. **Claims 1, 5-7, 23, 31, 33-37, and 39-45** are now pending in the present application and claims **2-4, 8-22, 24-30, 32, and 38** are canceled. This office action is made **Final**.

Claim Objections

2. The objection applied to the claims is withdrawn, as the proposed corrections are approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The 112 rejection applied to the claims is withdrawn, as the proposed corrections are approved.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Inagami (US 4,884,294)** in view of **Applicant's Admitted Prior Art** (hereinafter Art) (**Detailed Description section** - pg. 6, lines 5-12).

Regarding **claim 1**, Inagami discloses cordless telephone (see col. 3, lines 55-61; col. 1, lines 9-13; Figs. 2-4), comprising:

a base unit (5), including a push button switch (PAGE PBS) which reads on the claimed “paging mechanism” (see col. 3, lines 55-61; col. 4, lines 2-4; Figs. 2-4); and

a handset (1), including a discrimination sound generation circuit (combination of 20, 31, 32) which reads on the claimed “alerting mechanism” responsive to the paging mechanism (PAGE PBS) (see col. 3, lines 55-61; col. 4, lines 35-37; Figs. 3-4),

wherein the paging mechanism (PAGE PBS) and alerting mechanism (combination of 20, 31, 32) are for use in locating a missing handset (1) (see col. 5, line 65 - col. 6, line 3; col. 7, lines 1-4; Figs. 3-4), where the paging sound level is high for a user to hear the handset (1) in which for use in locating a missing handset is inherent as the user is able to hear the paging sound of the handset (1) from a distance as evidenced by the fact that one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly recognize, and

wherein at least one of the base unit (5) and the handset (1) includes a sound controller (20) which reads on the claimed “page adjusting mechanism” to affect a characteristic (e.g., sound level or sound pattern) of a page alerting signal output from the alerting mechanism (combination of 20, 31, 32) based on a condition (see col. 5, line 54 - col. 6, line 6; col. 7, lines 1-4, 48-50), where the sound level is affected by conditions such as whether or not the user is talking into handset or holding handset, or based on distance between the user and the handset. Inagami does not specifically disclose having the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset. However, the examiner maintains that the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the

Art Unit: 2617

measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset was well known in the art, as taught by Art.

In the same field of endeavor, Art discloses the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset (see pg. 6, lines 5-12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Inagami and Art to have the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset, in order to determine the received signal strength, as taught by Art (see pg. 6, lines 5-12).

Regarding **claim 6**, Inagami discloses cordless telephone (see col. 3, lines 55-61; col. 1, lines 9-13; Figs. 2-4), comprising:

a base unit (5), including a push button switch (PAGE PBS) which reads on the claimed “paging mechanism” (see col. 3, lines 55-61; col. 4, lines 2-4; Figs. 2-4); and

a handset (1), including a discrimination sound generation circuit (combination of 20, 31, 32) which reads on the claimed “alerting mechanism” responsive to the paging mechanism (PAGE PBS) (see col. 3, lines 55-61; col. 4, lines 35-37; Figs. 3-4),

wherein the paging mechanism (PAGE PBS) and alerting mechanism (combination of 20, 31, 32) are for use in locating a missing handset (1) (see col. 5, line 65 - col. 6, line 3; col. 7, lines 1-4; Figs. 3-4), where the paging sound level is high for a user to hear the handset (1) in

Art Unit: 2617

which for use in locating a missing handset is inherent as the user is able to hear the paging sound of the handset (1) from a distance as evidenced by the fact that one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly recognize, and

at least one of the base unit (5) and the handset (1) includes a sound controller (20) which reads on the claimed "page adjusting mechanism" to affect a characteristic (e.g., sound level or sound pattern) of a page alerting signal output from the alerting mechanism (combination of 20, 31, 32) based on a condition (see col. 5, line 54 - col. 6, line 6; col. 7, lines 1-4, 48-50), where the sound level is affected by conditions such as whether or not the user is talking into handset or holding handset, or based on distance between the user and the handset, and

wherein the adjusting mechanism (20) affects the alerting signal to have a volume based on an estimate of the distance between the base unit (5) and the handset (1) (see col. 5, line 54 - col. 6, line 6; col. 7, lines 1-4), where the sound level is affected by conditions such as whether or not the user is talking into handset or holding handset, or based on distance between the user and the handset. Inagami does not specifically disclose having the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset. However, the examiner maintains that the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset was well known in the art, as taught by Art.

Art further discloses the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of

Art Unit: 2617

the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset (see pg. 6, lines 5-12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Inagami and Art to have the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset, in order to determine the received signal strength, as taught by Art (see pg. 6, lines 5-12).

Regarding **claim 7**, Inagami discloses cordless telephone (see col. 3, lines 55-61; col. 1, lines 9-13; Figs. 2-4), comprising:

a base unit (5), including a push button switch (PAGE PBS) which reads on the claimed “paging mechanism” (see col. 3, lines 55-61; col. 4, lines 2-4; Figs. 2-4); and

a handset (1), including a discrimination sound generation circuit (combination of 20, 31, 32) which reads on the claimed “alerting mechanism” responsive to the paging mechanism (PAGE PBS) (see col. 3, lines 55-61; col. 4, lines 35-37; Figs. 3-4),

wherein the paging mechanism (PAGE PBS) and alerting mechanism (combination of 20, 31, 32) are for use in locating a missing handset (1) (see col. 5, line 65 - col. 6, line 3; col. 7, lines 1-4; Figs. 3-4), where the paging sound level is high for a user to hear the handset (1) in which for use in locating a missing handset is inherent as the user is able to hear the paging sound of the handset (1) from a distance as evidenced by the fact that one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly recognize, and

wherein at least one of the base unit (5) and the handset (1) includes a sound controller (20) which reads on the claimed “page adjusting mechanism” to affect a characteristic (e.g., sound level or sound pattern) of a page alerting signal output from the alerting mechanism (combination of 20, 31, 32) based on a condition (see col. 5, line 54 - col. 6, line 6; col. 7, lines 1-4, 48-50), where the sound level is affected by conditions such as whether or not the user is talking into handset or holding handset, or based on distance between the user and the handset, and

wherein the adjusting mechanism (20) affects the alerting signal to have a particular tonal quality (e.g., sound pattern) based on an estimate of the distance between the base unit (5) and the handset (1) (see col. 7, lines 1-4, 48-50; col. 5, line 54 - col. 6, line 6), where the sound generator can generate sound patterns and sound levels that are affected by conditions such as whether or not the user is talking into handset or holding handset, or based on distance between the user and the handset. Inagami does not specifically disclose having the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset. However, the examiner maintains that the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset was well known in the art, as taught by Art.

Art further discloses the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of

Art Unit: 2617

the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset (see pg. 6, lines 5-12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Inagami and Art to have the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset, in order to determine the received signal strength, as taught by Art (see pg. 6, lines 5-12).

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Inagami (US 4,884,294)** in view of **Applicant's Admitted Prior Art** (hereinafter Art) (**Detailed Description section** - pg. 6, lines 5-12) and **Tozawa et al.** (hereinafter Tozawa) (**US 5,198,800**).

Regarding **claim 5**, Inagami discloses cordless telephone (see col. 3, lines 55-61; col. 1, lines 9-13; Figs. 2-4), comprising:

a base unit (5), including a push button switch (PAGE PBS) which reads on the claimed “paging mechanism” (see col. 3, lines 55-61; col. 4, lines 2-4; Figs. 2-4); and

a handset (1), including a discrimination sound generation circuit (combination of 20, 31, 32) which reads on the claimed “alerting mechanism” responsive to the paging mechanism (PAGE PBS) (see col. 3, lines 55-61; col. 4, lines 35-37; Figs. 3-4),

wherein the paging mechanism (PAGE PBS) and alerting mechanism (combination of 20, 31, 32) are for use in locating a missing handset (1) (see col. 5, line 65 - col. 6, line 3; col. 7,

Art Unit: 2617

lines 1-4; Figs. 3-4), where the paging sound level is high for a user to hear the handset (1) in which for use in locating a missing handset is inherent as the user is able to hear the paging sound of the handset (1) from a distance as evidenced by the fact that one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly recognize, and

wherein at least one of the base unit (5) and the handset (1) includes a sound controller (20) which reads on the claimed “page adjusting mechanism” to affect a characteristic (e.g., sound level) of a page alerting signal output from the alerting mechanism (combination of 20, 31, 32) based on a condition (see col. 5, line 54 - col. 6, line 6; col. 7, lines 1-4), where the sound level is affected by conditions such as whether or not the user is talking into handset or holding handset, or based on distance between the user and the handset, and

wherein the adjusting mechanism (20) affects the alerting signal between the base unit (5) and the handset (1) (see col. 5, line 54 - col. 6, line 6; col. 7, lines 1-4), where the sound level is affected by conditions such as whether or not the user is talking into handset or holding handset, or based on distance between the user and the handset. Inagami does not specifically disclose having the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset; alerting signal to have a duration based on an estimate of the distance. However, the examiner maintains that the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset was well known in the art, as taught by Art.

In the same field of endeavor, Art discloses the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset (see pg. 6, lines 5-12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Inagami and Art to have the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset, in order to determine the received signal strength, as taught by Art (see pg. 6, lines 5-12). The combination of Inagami and Art does not specifically disclose having the feature alerting signal to have a duration based on an estimate of the distance. However, the examiner maintains that the feature alerting signal to have a duration based on an estimate of the distance was well known in the art, as taught by Tozawa.

In the same field of endeavor, Tozawa discloses the feature alerting signal (e.g., alarm sound) to have a duration (e.g., time interval) based on an estimate of the distance (see col. 4, lines 29-36), where the transceivers have an alarm sound that is a short time interval for short distances and long time interval for long distances.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Inagami, Art, and Tozawa to have the feature alerting signal to have a duration based on an estimate of the distance, in order to

Art Unit: 2617

have an alarm sound that varies depending on position, as taught by Tozawa (see col. 4, line 21).

Claims 23 and 39-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Inagami (US 4,884,294)** in view of **Applicant's Admitted Prior Art** (hereinafter Art) (**Detailed Description section** - pg. 6, lines 5-12) and **Dennerlein et al.** (hereinafter Dennerlein) (**US 5,117,504**).

Regarding **claim 23**, Inagami discloses a method of affecting an alerting signal of a telephone handset (1) (see col. 3, lines 55-61; col. 1, lines 9-13; Figs. 2-4), comprising the steps of:

sensing a condition related to a location of the handset (1) (see col. 5, line 54 - col. 6, line 6; col. 7, lines 1-4, 48-50), where the sound level is affected by conditions such as whether or not the user is talking into handset or holding handset, or based on distance between the user and the handset; and

affecting a characteristic (e.g., sound level or sound pattern) of the alerting signal based on the sensed condition (see col. 5, line 54 - col. 6, line 6; col. 7, lines 1-50), where the sound level is affected by conditions such as whether or not the user is talking into handset or holding handset, or based on distance between the user and the handset. Inagami does not specifically disclose having the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset; wherein the sensed condition is a signal delay measurement. However, the examiner maintains that the

feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset was well known in the art, as taught by Art.

In the same field of endeavor, Art discloses the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset (see pg. 6, lines 5-12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Inagami and Art to have the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset, in order to determine the received signal strength, as taught by Art (see pg. 6, lines 5-12). The combination of Inagami and Art does not specifically disclose having the feature wherein the sensed condition is a signal delay measurement. However, the examiner maintains that the feature wherein the sensed condition is a signal delay measurement was well known in the art, as taught by Dennerlein.

In the same field of endeavor, Dennerlein discloses the feature wherein the sensed condition is a signal delay measurement (see col. 1, lines 20-33), where the distance is computed between the stationary radio station (e.g., base unit) and the mobile radio telephone set.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Inagami, Art, and Dennerlein to have the

feature wherein the sensed condition is a signal delay measurement, in order to compute the distance from the signal delay, as taught by Dennerlein (see col. 1, lines 31-35).

Regarding **claim 39**, the combination of Inagami and Art discloses every limitation claimed as applied above in claim 23. The combination of Inagami and Art does not specifically disclose having the feature wherein the condition is a delay measurement related to a signal from a wireless transceiver. However, the examiner maintains that the feature wherein the condition is a delay measurement related to a signal from a wireless transceiver was well known in the art, as taught by Dennerlein.

Dennerlein further discloses the feature wherein the condition is a delay measurement related to a signal from a mobile radio telephone set which reads on the claimed “wireless transceiver” (see col. 1, lines 20-33,57-59).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Inagami, Art, and Dennerlein to have the feature wherein the condition is a delay measurement related to a signal from a wireless transceiver, in order to compute the distance from the signal delay, as taught by Dennerlein (see col. 1, lines 31-35).

Regarding **claim 40**, the combination of Inagami, Art, and Dennerlein discloses every limitation claimed, as applied above (see claim 39), in addition Inagami further discloses a method as recited in claim 39, wherein the wireless transceiver is part of a base unit (5) associated with the handset (1) (see Figs. 2-4).

Regarding **claim 41**, the combination of Inagami, Art, and Dennerlein discloses every limitation claimed, as applied above (see claim 39), in addition Inagami further discloses a

method as recited in claim 40, wherein the base unit (5) is a cordless telephone base unit (see col. 3, lines 55-61; Figs. 2-4).

Claims 31 and 34-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Ohayon (US 5,952,918)** in view of **Hardouin (EP 0876040 A1)**.

Regarding **claim 31**, Ohayon discloses a method of affecting an alerting signal (e.g., recovery signal) of a telephone handset (18, 20) (see col. 2, lines 22-36; Fig. 4C), comprising the steps of:

paging the telephone handset (18, 20) via the alerting signal (e.g., recovery signal) (see col. 2, lines 22-36; Fig. 4C);

sensing a condition related to a location of the handset (18, 20) (see col. 2, lines 22-36; col. 2, line 62 - col. 3, line 4; col. 3, lines 5-30; Fig. 4C), where conditions are such as darkened room or low light environment; and

affecting a characteristic of the alerting signal (e.g., recovery signal) based on the sensed condition (see col. 2, line 62 - col. 3, line 4; col. 3, lines 5-30),

wherein the location is sensed relative to a corresponding base unit (17, 19) (see col. 2, lines 22-36,44-48; Fig. 4C). Ohayon does not specifically disclose having the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset. However, the examiner maintains that the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base

unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset was well known in the art, as taught by Hardouin.

In the same field of endeavor, Hardouin discloses the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset (see col. 3, lines 22-44), where the ringer and audio volumes are adjusted according to signal strength in which the distance would be inherent as evidenced by the fact that one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly recognize.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ohayon and Hardouin to have the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset, in order to automatically adjust the ringer and voice volumes, as taught by Hardouin (see col. 1, lines 29-34).

Regarding **claim 34**, Ohayon discloses a method of affecting an alerting signal (e.g., recovery signal) of a telephone handset (18, 20) (see col. 2, lines 22-36; Fig. 4C), comprising the steps of:

paging the telephone handset (18, 20) via the alerting signal (e.g., recovery signal) (see col. 2, lines 22-36; Fig. 4C);

sensing a condition related to a location of the handset (18, 20) (see col. 2, lines 22-36; col. 2, line 62 - col. 3, line 4; col. 3, lines 5-30; Fig. 4C), where conditions are such as darkened room, low light environment, stress, or emergency; and

affecting a characteristic of the alerting signal (e.g., recovery signal) based on the sensed condition (see col. 2, line 62 - col. 3, line 4; col. 3, lines 5-30). As a note, Ohayon further discloses having sound signals such as beeping, buzzing, and/or musical sounds. Ohayon does not specifically disclose having the feature(s) wherein the condition is a received signal strength indication, and wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset. However, the examiner maintains that the feature(s) wherein the condition is a received signal strength indication was well known in the art, as taught by Hardouin.

Hardouin further discloses the feature(s) wherein the condition is a received signal strength indication (see col. 3, lines 22-44), where the ringer and audio volumes are adjusted according to signal strength, and

wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset (see col. 3, lines 22-44), where the ringer and audio volumes are adjusted according to signal strength in which the distance would be inherent as evidenced by the fact that one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly recognize.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ohayon and Hardouin to have the feature(s) wherein the condition is a received signal strength indication, and wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base

unit and the handset, in order to automatically adjust the ringer and voice volumes, as taught by Hardouin (see col. 1, lines 29-34).

Regarding **claim 35**, Ohayon discloses every limitation claimed as applied above in claim 34. Ohayon does not specifically disclose having the feature(s) wherein the condition is a received signal strength indication from a wireless transceiver. However, the examiner maintains that the feature(s) wherein the condition is a received signal strength indication from a wireless transceiver was well known in the art, as taught by Hardouin.

Hardouin further discloses the feature(s) wherein the condition is a received signal strength indication from a wireless transceiver (see col. 3, lines 22-44), where the ringer and audio volumes are adjusted according to signal strength.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ohayon and Hardouin to have the feature(s) wherein the condition is a received signal strength indication from a wireless transceiver, in order to automatically adjust the ringer and voice volumes, as taught by Hardouin (see col. 1, lines 29-34).

Regarding **claim 36**, the combination of Ohayon and Hardouin discloses every limitation claimed, as applied above (see claim 39), in addition Ohayon further discloses a method as recited in claim 35, wherein the wireless transceiver is part of a base unit (17, 19) associated with the handset (18, 20) (see col. 2, lines 22-47; Fig. 4C).

Regarding **claim 37**, the combination of Ohayon and Hardouin discloses every limitation claimed, as applied above (see claim 39), in addition Ohayon further discloses a

method as recited in claim 36, wherein the base unit (17, 19) is a cordless telephone base unit (see col. 2, lines 22-47; Fig. 4C).

Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Ohayon (US 5,952,918)** in view of **Hardouin (EP 0876040 A1)** and **Benvenuti (US 6,166,652)**.

Regarding **claim 33**, Ohayon discloses a method of affecting an alerting signal (e.g., recovery signal) of a telephone handset (18, 20) (see col. 2, lines 22-36; Fig. 4C), comprising the steps of:

paging the telephone handset (18, 20) via the alerting signal (e.g., recovery signal) (see col. 2, lines 22-36; Fig. 4C);

sensing a condition related to a location of the handset (18, 20) (see col. 2, lines 22-36; col. 2, line 62 - col. 3, line 4; col. 3, lines 5-30; Fig. 4C), where conditions are such as darkened room, low light environment, stress, or emergency; and

affecting a characteristic of the alerting signal (e.g., recovery signal) based on the sensed condition (see col. 2, line 62 - col. 3, line 4; col. 3, lines 5-30). As a note, Ohayon further discloses having sound signals such as beeping, buzzing, and/or musical sounds. Ohayon does not specifically disclose having the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset.

However, the examiner maintains that the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured

quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset was well known in the art, as taught by Hardouin.

Hardouin further discloses the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset (see col. 3, lines 22-44), where the ringer and audio volumes are adjusted according to signal strength in which the distance would be inherent as evidenced by the fact that one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly recognize.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ohayon and Hardouin to have the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset, in order to automatically adjust the ringer and voice volumes, as taught by Hardouin (see col. 1, lines 29-34). The combination of Ohayon and Hardouin does not specifically disclose having the feature wherein the characteristic is one of duration and tonal quality. However, the examiner maintains that the feature wherein the characteristic is one of duration and tonal quality was well known in the art, as taught by Benvenuti.

In the same field of endeavor, Benvenuti discloses the feature wherein the characteristic is one of duration and tonal quality (see col. 3, lines 35-41,49-53).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Ohayon, Hardouin, and Benvenuti to

Art Unit: 2617

have the feature wherein the characteristic is one of duration and tonal quality, in order to have a system and method for locating misplaced items with large activation range, distinct activation signal, and effective differentiation between signals, as taught by Benvenuti (see col. 1, lines 29-34).

Claims 42-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Inagami (US 4,884,294)** in view of **Applicant's Admitted Prior Art** (hereinafter Art) (**Detailed Description section** - pg. 6, lines 5-12) and **Alvarez et al.** (hereinafter Alvarez) (**US 5,805,667**).

Regarding **claim 42**, Inagami discloses a method of affecting an alerting signal of a telephone handset (1) (see col. 3, lines 55-61; col. 1, lines 9-13; Figs. 2-4), comprising the steps of:

paging the telephone handset (1) via the alerting signal (see col. 4, lines 2-4);

sensing a condition related to a location of the handset (1) (see col. 5, line 54 - col. 6, line 6; col. 7, lines 1-4, 48-50), where the sound level is affected by conditions such as whether or not the user is talking into handset or holding handset, or based on distance between the user and the handset; and

affecting a characteristic (e.g., sound level or sound pattern) of the alerting signal based on the sensed condition (see col. 5, line 54 - col. 6, line 6; col. 7, lines 1-50), where the sound level is affected by conditions such as whether or not the user is talking into handset or holding handset, or based on distance between the user and the handset. Inagami does not specifically disclose having the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a

Art Unit: 2617

communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset; wherein the condition is an error related measurement. However, the examiner maintains that the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset was well known in the art, as taught by Art.

In the same field of endeavor, Art discloses the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset (see pg. 6, lines 5-12).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Inagami and Art to have the feature(s) wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset, in order to determine the received signal strength, as taught by Art (see pg. 6, lines 5-12). The combination of Inagami and Art does not specifically disclose having the feature wherein the condition is an error related measurement. However, the examiner maintains that the feature wherein the condition is an error related measurement was well known in the art, as taught by Alvarez.

In the same field of endeavor, Alvarez discloses the feature wherein the condition is an error related measurement (see col. 3, lines 1-15, 51-55; col. 6, lines 15-38; col. 6, line 65 - col. 7, line 13; Figs. 2-3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Inagami, Art, and Alvarez to have the feature wherein the condition is an error related measurement, in order to have a distance-simulator that simulates the effects of physically separating first and second portions of a cordless communication device, as taught by Alvarez (see col. 2, lines 35-39).

Regarding **claim 43**, the combination of Inagami and Art discloses every limitation claimed as applied above in claim 42. The combination of Inagami and Art does not specifically disclose having the feature wherein the condition is an error related measurement related to a signal from a wireless transceiver. However, the examiner maintains that the feature wherein the condition is an error related measurement related to a signal from a wireless transceiver was well known in the art, as taught by Alvarez.

Alvarez further discloses the feature wherein the condition is an error related measurement related to a signal from a mobile radio telephone set which reads on the claimed “wireless transceiver” (see col. 3, lines 1-15, 51-55; col. 6, lines 15-38; col. 6, line 65 - col. 7, line 13; Figs. 2-3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Inagami, Art, and Alvarez to have the feature wherein the condition is an error related measurement related to a signal from a wireless transceiver, in order to have a distance-simulator that simulates the effects of physically separating first and second portions of a cordless communication device, as taught by Alvarez (see col. 2, lines 35-39).

Regarding **claim 44**, the combination of Inagami, Art, and Alvarez discloses every limitation claimed, as applied above (see claim 43), in addition Inagami further discloses a method as recited in claim 39, wherein the wireless transceiver is part of a base unit (5) associated with the handset (1) (see Figs. 2-4).

Regarding **claim 45**, the combination of Inagami, Art, and Alvarez discloses every limitation claimed, as applied above (see claim 44), in addition Inagami further discloses a method as recited in claim 40, wherein the base unit (5) is a cordless telephone base unit (see col. 3, lines 55-61; Figs. 2-4).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 26 November 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant's arguments as the applied reference(s) provide more than adequate support and to further clarify (see the above claims for relevant citations and comments in this section).

6. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Regarding applicant's argument of claim 1 on pg. 7, 4th full par., "...does not teach...affecting a characteristic of the page alerting signal based upon a condition that is a

Art Unit: 2617

measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset related to a distance between the base unit and the handset...”, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Applicant has failed to interpret and appreciate the combined teachings of well-known prior art Inagami and Art that clearly discloses the claimed feature(s) as would be clearly recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art. In particular, Inagami discloses the language as related to the claimed feature(s)

wherein at least one of the base unit (5) and the handset (1) includes a sound controller (20) which reads on the claimed “page adjusting mechanism” to affect a characteristic (e.g., sound level or sound pattern) of a page alerting signal output from the alerting mechanism (combination of 20, 31, 32) based on a condition (see col. 5, line 54 - col. 6, line 6; col. 7, lines 1-4,48-50), where the sound level is affected by conditions such as whether or not the user is talking into handset or holding handset, or based on distance between the user and the handset. As further support in the same field of endeavor, Art discloses the language as related to the claimed feature(s)

wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset (see pg. 6, lines 5-12). Therefore, the combination(s) of the reference(s) Inagami and Art as addressed above more than adequately meets the claim limitations.

7. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., “...adjusting a page alerting signal...” are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the

Art Unit: 2617

claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Regarding applicant's argument of claims 31 and 34-37 on pg. 9, 6th full par. (see above), the applicant's argument relies on a feature(s) not recited in the claim(s). Also, see claims 23, 33, and 42 for similar argument.

8. In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Regarding applicant's argument of claims 31 and 34 on pg. 9, 7th full par., "...affecting a characteristic of the page alerting signal based upon a condition that is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset related to a distance between the base unit and the handset to locate the missing handset...", the Examiner respectfully disagrees. Applicant has failed to interpret and appreciate the combined teachings of well-known prior art Ohayon and Hardouin that clearly discloses the claimed feature(s) as would be clearly recognized by one of ordinary skill in the art. In particular, Ohayon discloses the language as related to the claimed feature(s)

affecting a characteristic of the alerting signal (e.g., recovery signal) based on the sensed condition (see col. 2, line 62 - col. 3, line 4; col. 3, lines 5-30). As a note, Ohayon further discloses having sound signals such as beeping, buzzing, and/or musical sounds. As further

support in the same field of endeavor, Hardouin discloses the language as related to the claimed feature(s)

wherein the condition is a measured quality of a communication channel between the base unit and the handset and the measured quality of the condition is related to a distance between the base unit and the handset (see col. 3, lines 22-44), where the ringer and audio volumes are adjusted according to signal strength in which the distance would be inherent as evidenced by the fact that one of ordinary skill in the art would clearly recognize. Therefore, the combination(s) of the reference(s) Ohayon and Hardouin as addressed above more than adequately meets the claim limitations.

9. Regarding applicant's argument(s) of claims 5-7, 23, 31, 33-37, and 39-45, the claims are addressed for the same reasons as set forth above and as applied above in each claim rejection.

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 2617

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to WILLIE J. DANIEL JR whose telephone number is (571)272-7907. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Appiah can be reached on (571) 272-7904. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/WJD,Jr/

WJD,Jr
05 March 2009

/Charles N. Appiah/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617